

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated June 1, 2005.

In brief, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 in the application as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,322,346, issued to Notta. In relevant part, Notta teaches an eccentric gear backlash take-up mechanism for seat latches.

Specifically, the serrations located along the edge of the locking pawl 11 in Notta coast with the ratchet wheel spur gear 8, this in turn operating a pinion spur gear 7 which is in contact with a lower facing gear rack 6 associated with the seat back support arm 2. A cam assembly 12 biasingly contacts an associated cam follower surface 14 located on an exterior edge of the pawl 11, a coil spring 18 biasing the cam in a direction against the pawl.

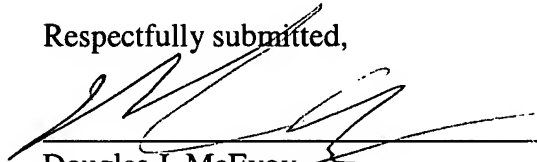
In contrast, each of independent claims 1 and 13 of the present invention have been amended to recite that the cam is rotatably secured to the frame in seating fashion within the inner wall configuration, and in particular so as to be completely contained within the interior aperture associated with the pawl. The cam is further recited as including a specified exterior configuration exhibiting a second plurality of projections, these co-acting with the first plurality of projections associated with the pawl and in order that, upon the lever pivotally secured to the cam being rotated in a first direction, the exterior configuration of the cam engages the inner wall configuration of the pawl in order to bias the first and second plurality of serrations in abutting contact, the cam being further rotated in a second direction to cause the pawl to hingedly disconnect from abutting contact with the seatback arm. Accordingly, Notta does not teach or suggest the provision of a rotating cam completely encapsulated within an interior aperture associated with a pawl and as recited by the claims.

Further, and as is clear from each of claims 1 and 13, the serrations formed upon the pawl engage additional serrations formed upon the lower arcuate surface of the seatback arm. In contrast, Notta teaches the provision of the wheel spur gear 8 interposed between the locking pawl 11 and the seat back support arm 2, this clearly teaching away from the interengaging relationship established between the pawl and seatback arm and as recited in claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-13, by virtue of the amendments entered into independent claims 1 and 13, are allowable and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have.

Respectfully submitted,



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